public sector units, tax incentives for setting up of private industries in backward regions, etc. There is no special package to States for making the growth rates of the States nearly identical. However, to address the concerns of regional imbalance a number of programmes have been undertaken. These include, Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), Hill Area Development Programme/Western Ghats Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme, etc. Under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Additional Central Assistance is being provided under the Special Plans for Bihar and Orissa.

Cutting down of CSS

2260. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to achieve effective results and further strengthen its anti-poverty programmes Government has decided to cut down the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) run by various Ministries to 99 from current 214;

(b) whether it is a fact that there were many schemes whose objectives were overlapping with each other and there was a huge administrative cost of running each scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Plan Schemes are discontinued on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise and rationalization of Schemes during the course of a Plan. The primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of Schemes according to Plan objectives and priorities and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. The ZBB exercise carried out for the 11th Plan for rationalizing 155 Schemes in operation in 2006-07 resulted in retention of 82 CSS for implementation during 2007-08 after weeding, merger and reclassification.

Priority to rural areas in eleventh plan

†2261. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 29 per cent people live in urban areas in India, whereas 50 per cent people are residents of urban areas in the world;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that making of plan outlines require giving priority to rural area which form the basis of development scheme in India; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and names of schemes giving priority to rural region in Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) As per the Report of Technical Group of Population Projections entitled, 'Population Projections for India and States 2001-2026' brought out by the Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India, the urban population of the country on 1st March, 2008 is projected to be 29.3% of the total population. As per the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

World Urbanization Prospects, the 2007 Revision, brought out by the United Nations, the urban population of the world is estimated to be 49.4% of the total population in 2007. India is relatively less urbanized than other countries at the same level of development.

(c) and (d) The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) has set the growth target for the Plan period at 9% per year and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. For the rural economy the Eleventh Plan aims at achieving a growth rate of 4% in agriculture sector. For that there is a focus on improving rural connectivity, scaling up of irrigation potential creation, watershed management, rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge, revitalization of the extension system, etc. The schemes which are given priority to the rural region in the Eleventh plan include Bharat Nirman, which is a time-bound business plan for action in rural infrastructure, in which action is proposed in the areas of irrigation, rural roads, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity. The National Rural Health Mission (NHRM) has been set up to bridge gaps in health care in the rural areas. Other programmes such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), etc. are being implemented only in the rural areas for poverty reduction, livelihood security and rural development.

Population suffering from malnutrition

†2262. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ten per cent population of the country is devoid of two square meal and is victim of malnutrition;

(b) if so, whether Government is formulating any action plan to make poor section of the society free from malnutrition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) On the basis of the data of 61st Round (2004-2005) large sample survey of consumer expenditure conducted by National Sample Survey Organization, the number of people not having two square meals a day throughout the year was 2.4% in rural areas and 0.5% in urban areas at national level based on responses to questions on food sufficiency. How many of them are victim of malnutrition, is not known. A variety of interventions consisting of dietary diversification, nutrient supplementation and public health measures involving better hygiene, sanitation and deworming have been proposed in the Eleventh Plan to tackle the problem of malnutrition. The Eleventh Plan has also included reduction of malnutrition among children of the age group 0-3 years to half its present level and reduction of anemia among women and girls by 50%, among the selected monitorable socio-economic targets.

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